

**THE ANALYSIS ON FICTIONAL FINALISM FAILURES CAUSED BY  
DUALISM IN T. S. ELIOT'S *THE LOVE SONG OF J. ALFRED PRUFROCK*  
(1909) :  
AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



**Research Paper**

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by

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

A poem has close related meaning to beautiful sentences in such kind arrangement of stanzas. It may be either short or long sentences, but it contains a deep implicit meaning even if it is written in colloquial language. It is the right of the reader to judge the quality of a poem, whether it is good or not. However, it cannot be denied that the judgment is influenced by the power of the poet himself. Greater works have usually been made and got the effect from the name of the poet. They often have weird ideas that sometimes can hardly be understood by common people. They have freedom of writing to convey their imagination and creativity (Hardjana, 1985 : 11).

One of the famous American poets in the literary world is T. S. Eliot. Eliot was born in St. Louis and educated at Harvard University. However, most of his adult life was passed in London. In the vanguard of the artistic movement known as Modernism in literature, Eliot was a unique innovator in poetry and *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* (1909) is his first and most well-known poem besides *The Waste Land* (1922), which is considered as one of the most original and influential poems of the twentieth century. As a young man, he suffered a religion crisis and nervous breakdown before regaining his emotional equilibrium and Christian faith.

His early poetry, including *Prufrock*, deals with spiritually exhausted people who exist in the impersonal modern city. *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* is a person which criticizes the fragmentation among the members of a modern society where the portrait of Prufrock character was being provoked. Besides, the poem also criticizes the unheroic culture, frustration and importance of the modern individual which spread off during the modernism movement. This new culture made the people live separated from each other and have no attention toward the others, where each of them has individual response toward their life. It is also a kind of satiric poem toward separation of the social status and classes in the society based on the capital owning. Industrialism and the advanced technology in modernism era have caused a complex problem in the society by the arising and the glorifying of individualism and materialism (Bertens, 2001 : 13 – 14). Therefore, this social condition raised as the background of this poem has a significant proportion toward the building of the poem and the poet created it to give an emphasis of Prufrock's condition who is always alienated in his status.

Prufrock is a representation of a character who cannot reconcile his thoughts and understanding with his feeling and will. The poem employs a lot of way, which is very important to grow the tone and the flow of the story. It deliver a weak man's insights into his sterile life and his lack of will to change his own life. The poem also uses images to extend the effect toward the atmosphere of the poem in order to get a deeper meaning and sense. Prufrock understands that he has lack of authenticity with his associates. One part of him could like to change

his meaningless life, but he also feels afraid to accomplish this because it has a risk by disturbing his universe. The universe he refers to is a small social circle of middle class acquaintances. He thinks that he would disturb its equilibrium if he tries to sing a “love song” to one of them. He already knows them all and knows that they do not expect much from him. He tries to rehearse a speech he *might* make a relation with a particular woman, but he gives up almost as soon as he has started, saying that it would be better to be merely a crab rather than a human being who has to make love speeches and ask for affection. Therefore, sometimes he decides to reject his conscience.

Moreover, Kaplan (1965 : 18 – 19) says that *The Love Song of Alfred Prufrock* is the song that can be divided into passion and timidity. It is a song of frustrative and emotional conflict. While, Prufrock, as the main character, is an interesting tragic figure. However, Kaplan does not discuss further about its cause factors and effects that may occur by having what he calls as “tragic personality”.

Eliot had set his poem in modern fashion by blending the references to the classics in the form of dramatic monologue inside the character (Pradopo, 2002 : 100). He tended to use the type of realism and the concept of binary opposition in sending Prufrock’s conversation in his complication. Therefore, the expression of a majestic language used in the poem is more intended to mock the character himself rather than only to show melodious language.

In this research paper, the writer is interested in finding out the cause and the effects of having dual personalities in Prufrock as the main character in the

poem by analyzing the problems faced by the character and the contradictive implementation between his ideas and actions about his life. The researcher thinks that Prufrock's character sometimes is illogical and different from the common people, but it is also suitable and true for him in another occasion.

Furthermore, it is common for us that in making a decision, someone is often being confused to choose one of the various chances in front of them and they usually play with their feeling drive on the one hand and logic drive on the other hand. However, when we could not manage it, this confusion will lead us to a lot of failures in our future. Therefore, it makes me interested in knowing and understand further the dualism and its effect to failures encountered by Prufrock in reaching his fictional finalism. In this study the writer encourages herself to give a title **“THE ANALYSIS ON FICTIONAL FINALISM FAILURES BY DUALISM IN T. S. ELIOT’S *THE LOVE SONG OF J. ALFRED PRUFROCK* (1909): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH”**.

## **B. Literature Review**

The previous analysis done by Eko Setia Watiningsih's research paper (2005) Sebelas Maret University of Surakarta entitles “The Mental Illness of the Character in T. S. Eliot's *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*”. The research used this theory to analyze the mental illness happened to the characterization of T. S. Eliot's *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*. The result of her research is the unsuccessful management of personality could bring someone to suffer the

mental illness and furthermore, it will result in the uncomfortable condition of her/his style of life.

From the analyses above, the researcher tries to make a different analysis. Here the researcher focuses the analysis on the fictional finalism failures based on Alfred Adler theory individual psychological approach.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Considering the idea which has been presented in the background above, the researcher presents the problems as follows :

1. What types of fictional finalism failures that are caused by dualism in Eliot's poem *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*?, and
2. How are these failures describes in *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*?

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

In this research paper, the researcher focuses on the analysis of the characteristics of the main character, Prufrock, to find out his kind of personality as a dualist. In doing this research, the researcher relates the poem to the psychological theory of motivation force behind all our behavior and experiences, that is well known as striving for perfection / fictional finalism delivered by Alfred Adler as the guide of the research. In this way, the researcher tries to act as the observer and also the listener in Prufrock's monologue in the poem in order to know and understand the character closely. In doing this research, the researcher goes into the poem by observing the

author's way in presenting the story that builds the character as the object of research because poetry is very closely related to certain arrangement and style of writing that may show indirect meaning or the intention of the poet toward his work.

#### **E. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the above problem statement, the objectives of the study are as follows :

1. To analyze the poem based on its structural elements.
2. To identify the types of fictional finalism failures caused by dualism shown in *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*, and
3. To describe how these failures are portrayed in the poem.

#### **F. Benefit of the Study**

By doing this research, the researcher hopes that there are 2 benefits which can be taken as follows :

##### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

As a contribution to help the reader in understanding the effect of personality of J. Alfred Prufrock due to his failures to realize his dreams in his life and the technique of T. S. Eliot in creating that kind of personality in his poem *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*.

## 2. Practical Benefit

As an additional information for other researchers who are interested in analyzing T. S. Eliot's *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*.

## G. Research Method

In analyzing the study, the writer applies qualitative method:

### 1. Object of the Study

Object of the study is the fictional finalism in *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*.

### 2. Type of the Data and Data Source

The data in this study can be divided into two kinds of data, namely primary and secondary data. Primary data are the main data consisting of about the character especially main character of *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*. Secondary data are supporting data consisting of theoretical approach.

#### a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the book of Robert B. Kaplan written in 1965 entitled *Major Poems and Plays of T. S. Eliot* published by C.K. Hillegas, Nebraska.

#### b. Secondary Data Source

Secondary data includes all sources that can support the main data. The secondary data are words, phrases, and sentences another books from



the critics and the data taken from the Internets which support and give more explanation about the subject matter in the poem.

### **3. Type of the Study**

The type of this research is a descriptive qualitative which focuses on the analysis of textual data. Moleong (1995: 5) states that qualitative research is a type of research, which result the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from observed object. The data in this research are qualitative data, in form of words, spoken or written of people and analyzed attitudes (Moleong, 1995: 3).

In brief, descriptive qualitative research is the research employing the method of collecting, describing, classifying and analyzing the data and then drawing conclusion. The data can be sentences, discourse, pictures diary and memorandum. By using the descriptive method, this research is aimed to describe the striving for perfection of J. Alfred Prufrock in the *The Love Song* poem based on Psychological Analysis.

### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

Data collecting technique in this study is library research, the researcher makes 4 steps, they are :

- a. Collect the main data and the supporting data by reading and observing the subject of the research,
- b. Sort and classifying all of the collected data according to their relation to the issue,
- c. Analyzing the data using the related method and theory, and

d. Drawing the conclusion.

## 5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In this thesis the technique that is used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis technique. The writer will describes the fictional finalism of psychology of literature. The collected data are interpreted and analyzed in detail through psychology of literature in this case by showing the struggle for perfection of J. Alfred Prufrock in *The Love Song* poem. Then the researcher draws conclusion the data from *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* poem based on the analysis.

## H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper is divided into five chapters. Chapter I contains introduction that consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, theoretical application, research method and paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory that deals with theory of individual psychological and theoretical application. Chapter III presents the structural elements of the poem. Chapter IV presents psychological analysis and its application in analyzing of the poem. Chapter V deals with conclusion and suggestion for this study.